

The Andover Council on Aging Board (COAB) met in regular session on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 8:00 am at The Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA.

Chair Don Robb called the meeting to order at 8:02 am and on

ROLL CALL: Present were Don Robb, Ann Grecoe, Kaye Devanna, Joan Fox, Jane Gifun, Ken DeBenedictis and Joe Ponti. Absent were Stuart McNeil, Margaret O'Connor and Mike Roli.

Also present were Kathy Urquhart, Director of Elder Services; Donna Morse, Executive Secretary of Elder Services and Ron Ramsey.

Minutes

On MOTION by Jane Gifun, which was seconded by Joe Ponti, it was voted to accept the minutes. On VOICE VOTE the motion was declared as PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business

Focus Groups - Focus groups are scheduled for Friday, February 13 at 10 am and at noon. Ann Grecoe requested a copy of the report from UMass Boston and asked how Kathy Urquhart planned to run the meetings.

New Business

Housing - The Board was reminded that there will be a Planning Board meeting on February 17 at 7:30 pm regarding the Strawberry Hill project. The Board will write a "letter to the editor" regarding definitions of various types of housing in hopes that everyone will be using the same definitions. The Board authorized Joe Ponti to draft a letter and get feedback about it from the members via email as the goal is to get it in the *Townsmen* for next week. A second letter to the editor was discussed that would be about the need for small, affordable housing that would be appropriate for downsizing. The members thought small lots within $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 mile from the center of town with a caveat that could only be resold to seniors would be ideal. The suggestion was made that Town officials be given a heads up before the letters go to the newspapers. The Board might invite Paul Materazzo, Director of Planning and others to the March COAB meeting. The subject of a third letter arose but was deemed not appropriate at this time.

FY16 Budget - Kathy Urquhart spoke about the FY16 budget which she will present to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee on Monday, February 23 at about 7:15 pm. Small increases were made in two line items and decreases in revenue are expected over the next fiscal year.

Other

Kathy Urquhart shared Margaret O'Connor's concern for affordable housing on the property that is currently the Franciscan Center. There is talk of making a one-time donation to the Housing Trust in lieu of affordable units. The Board is opposed to the idea of a one-time donation as they feel there is a real need for affordable housing for seniors. Don Robb will draft a letter.

Closing The Center - The question was raised about the need to cancel COAB meetings when The Center follows the schools for closing or delays due to bad weather. The Board felt there was no need for their meetings to follow the school closing/delay even though The Center's programming does. The Chair and Vice Chair will, based on weather conditions at the time, make a determination at 7 am on the day of the meeting and then call/text members if the meeting is to

be cancelled. The Center's programming will continue to follow the school's closing/delay for weather related issues.

Shining Star Award - After a brief discussion the Board decided not to do the Shining Star Award this year.

On Motion of Ken DeBenedictis, and seconded by Joe Ponti, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 am.

The next regular meeting is March 12, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,
Donna Morse
Recording Secretary